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Colleen A. Coyne

Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Colleen Coyne

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuichi Hirata et al.

Art Unit: 1647

Serial No.: 09/214,982

Examiner: C. Saoud

Filed: January 14, 1999

Customer No.: 21559

Title: NOVEL VEGF-LIKE FACTOR

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, DC 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ACTION

In reply to the Examiner's Action mailed on February 5, 2001, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend claim 2 as follows.

1. ~~2.~~ (Twice Amended) An isolated mammalian VEGF-D protein encoded by an isolated nucleic acid hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said nucleic acid has about 90% or higher sequence homology with the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, and said highly

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stringent conditions involve gradient hybridization from a temperature of about 68°C to
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cont about 55°C for about 2 hours and washing with 2 x SSC solution at room temperature,
and wherein said protein has a biological activity of a VEGF family protein.
